

REMARKS

The first office action mailed October 6, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. The above amendments and following remarks are submitted in response thereto.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 19-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5 and 8-17 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 6-7 have been amended. Claim 18 has been withdrawn, in view of the restriction requirement, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19-22 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 19-22 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action required restriction to group I (claims 1-17) or group II (claim 18). Group I is elected without traverse. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone conference held with Douglas Goldhush, Applicants' representative, in which this election was originally made. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the subject matter of claim 18.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended in order to correspond more closely to the amendments to claim 1, and the withdrawal of claim 18. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Amended and added new claims do not introduce new matter, since they contain only limitations that were disclosed in the original specification. For example, claim 1 as amended is supported by original claims 1 and 5 and by figures 1 and 3. In particular, the limitation “the second platen comprising a frame divided into two parts” is supported by original claim 5, currently cancelled.

The limitations “each part of said two parts (of the frame) being “L” shaped and comprising a first end portion directly constrained to the bed and a second end portion suspended from the bed and extending towards the first platen” are illustrated in figures 1 and 3. Similarly, the limitation “said tilting platen being placed between said two parts of the frame and being rotatable connected to said second end portions of the two parts” is illustrated in figures 1 and 3.

Claim 19 is supported by original claim 8, claim 20 is supported by original claim 15, claim 21 is supported by original claim 16, and claim 22 is supported by and illustrated in figure 3.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,295,055 of Kidd et al. ("Kidd"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 19-22 are dependent, is directed to a single mold machine for pressure casting sanitary wares. The machine includes a bed having a substantially longitudinal direction a first platen and a second platen associated with the bed and two mold halves supported respectively by the first platen and the second platen. The first platen is translatable relative to the bed along the substantially longitudinal direction and the second platen includes a frame divided into two parts. Each of the two parts are "L" shaped and include a first end portion directly constrained to the bed and a second end portion suspended from the bed and extending towards the first platen. The second platen further includes a tilting platen carrying one of said two mold halves. The tilting platen is placed between said two parts of the frame and is rotatable connected to said second end portions of the two parts, for rotating about an axis substantially horizontal and extending perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

It is respectfully noted that one advantage of certain embodiments of the present invention, is that the tilting platen presenting one mold half can be supported cantilevered with respect the bed and the frame, allowing great mobility of the tilting platen and ease of access to the mold half, which can be

positioned according to the particular process and demolding requirements for the sanitary wares in production. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, because they alone or in combination do not disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of the present invention, cannot provide the critical and unobvious advantages described above.

As will be discussed below, Kidd fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Kidd generally describes a frame 1 having a longitudinal direction. Two plates 12, 29 are associated with the frame and respectively with a female mold 22 and with male mold 25. One of the plates 29 is translatable relative to the frame along the longitudinal direction. The other plate is a tilting plate that is rotatable forward through 90°, so as to place the female mold on an ejection aperture 32 in the frame.

Kidd fails to disclose that the second plate comprises a frame divided into two parts, that each of the two parts of the frame is “L” shaped and comprises a first end portion directly constrained to the bed and a second end portion suspended from the bed and extending towards the first platen, and that the tilting platen is placed between said two parts of the frame and is rotatable connected to the second end portions of the two parts.

In contrast, Kidd shows that the second plate (the fixed plate) comprise a frame that is not divided into two parts but is single, unitary, and bridge

shaped (see figure 1 and 3) and that the tilting plate is connected substantially in the middle of the frame.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Kidd, because Kidd fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,817,345 of Koch et al. ("Koch") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,363,619 of Farrell ("Farrell"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art.

Claims 5 and 8-12 and 14 have been cancelled, accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, which is discussed above.

Koch generally describes a molding machine comprising a base 20 having a longitudinal direction. Two turret blocks 12, 16 are associated with the base, with a plurality of movable mold cores 34 supported by the sliding turret 12, and mold cavities 36 supported by the fixed turret 16. The mold cores 34 are connected to the sliding turret through a tilting plate that is rotatable around an axis perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

From Figures 5 and 6 of Koch, it could be argued that the tilting plate comprises a frame divided into two parts and that the tilting plate is placed between said two parts and it is connected to their central portion.

Koch fails, however, to disclose that each of the two parts of the frame is "L" shaped and comprises a first end portion directly constrained to the base and a second end portion suspended from the base and extending towards the first platen. Moreover, Koch fails to disclose that the tilting platen is connected to the second end portions of the two parts.

Finally, Koch fails to disclose that the turret supporting the tilting plate is fixed and the other turret is translatable. Koch simply has a fixed turret supporting mold cavities 36 as disclosed above.

Farrell does not remedy the deficiencies of Koch. Accordingly, the combination of Farrell and Koch fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Farrell discloses an apparatus for making wide mouth container that does not have much in common with amended claim 1. Nevertheless, it could be argued that Farrell shows that a tilting platen can be made stationary relative to another platen which is movable toward and away from the tilting platen.

As clearly understandable from all the figures, Farrell fails to disclose that the second platen, namely the fixed platen, comprises a frame divided into two parts, that each of the two parts of the frame is "L" shaped and comprises a first end portion directly constrained to the base and a second end portion

suspended from the base and extending towards the first platen. Moreover, Farrell fails to disclose that the tilting platen is connected to the second end portions of the two parts.

Consequently, Farrell does not correct all the deficiencies presented by Koch, and the combination of references does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koch and Farrell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,262 of Arend ("Arend"). Applicants respectfully note that claim 13 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 13 is moot.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1, and thus is patentable for at least the reason claim 1 is patentable. Arend is directed to moulding systems with movable mold modules. Arend describes a mold apparatus in which movable tie rods, which are extendable and retractable with respect to the movable mold module, are designed to be initially removed from a gap between the platens of the mold apparatus when the platens have been separated. Like the other cited references, Arend does not disclose or suggest, that each of the two parts of the frame is "L" shaped and comprises a first end portion directly constrained to the base and a second end portion suspended from the base and extending towards the first platen and that the tilting platen is connected to the second end portions of the two parts. Instead, Arend discloses a highly complex movable mold that is connected to substantially box-shaped frames.

Accordingly, Arend fails to remedy the deficiencies of Koch and Farrell. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koch and Farrell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,514,452 of Maier ("Maier"). Applicants respectfully note that claims 15-17 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

However, Applicants respectfully note that like the other references, Maier does not disclose or suggest that each of the two parts of the frame is "L" shaped and comprises a first end portion directly constrained to the base and a second end portion suspended from the base and extending towards the first platen and that the tilting platen is connected to the second end portions of the two parts. Instead, Maier generally describes two non-rotating molds connected to respective single upright. Accordingly, Maier does not remedy the deficiencies of Koch and Farrell with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Since all the dependent claims depend directly and indirectly upon and contain all the limitations of patentable claim 1, as well as additional limitations, it is respectfully submitted that each of the dependent claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references.

Conclusion

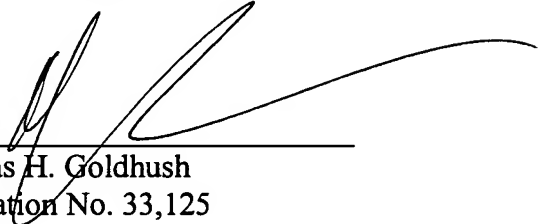
In view of the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-4, 6-7, and 19-22 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-4, 6-7, and 19-22 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants' counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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